

**The Claims Defining the Invention are as Follows**

1. A shroud for protecting a communication device, the shroud comprises a receptacle having an opening to receive the device, the receptacle being adapted to releasably retain the device therein, the shroud is movable  
5 between a closed condition and an open condition, wherein in the open condition the communication device is fully operable, while in the closed condition the communication device is substantially protected from damage.
2. The shroud according to claim 1 comprising a first member.
3. The shroud according to claim 2 wherein when in the closed condition the first  
10 member substantially covers and protects a functional face of the device when the device is received in the receptacle.
4. The shroud according to claims 2 or 3 wherein the first member is hingedly connected to the receptacle at a first end.
5. The shroud according to claims 2, 3 or 4 wherein the first member is removable from the receptacle when in a predetermined position relative to  
15 the receptacle.
6. The shroud according to claims 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the first member is releasably locked to the receptacle when the shroud is in the closed condition.
7. The shroud according to any one of claims 2 to 6 wherein the first member  
20 comprises a latch.
8. The shroud according to claim 7 wherein the latch is located adjacent a second end of the first member.
9. The shroud according to claim 7 or 8 wherein the latch cooperates with the receptacle to releasably secure the first member to the receptacle when the  
25 shroud is in the closed condition.

- 12 -

10. The shroud according to claim 9 wherein the latch cooperates with an edge of the opening of the receptacle.
11. The shroud according any one of the preceding claims wherein the shroud has a first retaining means.
- 5 12. The shroud according to claim 11 wherein the receptacle incorporates the first retaining means.
13. The shroud according to claim 11 or 12 wherein the retaining means is incorporated in a rear wall of the receptacle.
14. The shroud according to claim 11, 12 or 13 wherein the first retaining means  
10 comprises at least one resiliently flexible locking tab adapted to releasably engage a corresponding locking portion on the communication device to releasably retain the device within the receptacle.
15. The shroud according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the shroud has a second retaining means.
- 15 16. The shroud according to claim 15 wherein the second retaining means comprises a locking projection extending from the first member, such that when in the closed condition the locking projection extends at least partially across the opening of the receptacle, preventing the communication device from passing through the opening.
- 20 17. The shroud according to claim 16 wherein the locking projection extends inwardly from the second end of the first member.
18. The shroud according to any one of the preceding claims wherein functional components of the communication device are accessible through the receptacles opening when the device is retained in the shroud.

19. The shroud according to any one claims 2 to 18 wherein the first member incorporates a tab which is used to release the second end of the first member from the receptacle.

20. The shroud according to claim 19 wherein the tab of the first member is 5 configured to provide protection to functional components on the communication device.

21. The shroud according to claim 19 or 20 wherein the tab is integral with the locking projection of the second retaining means.

22. The shroud according to claim 19, 20 or 21 wherein the tab extends 10 substantially perpendicular to the locking projection at a remote end thereof.

23. The shroud according to any one of the preceding claims wherein a portion of the receptacle projects sufficiently to protect the functional components on the communication device when received in the shroud.

24. The shroud according to claim 23 wherein the portion is incorporated in the 15 rear wall of the receptacle.

25. The shroud according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the receptacle incorporates a plurality of apertures to allow an operator to use the communication device when retained therein.

26. The shroud according to claim 25 wherein each aperture located on a front 20 wall of the receptacle has a raised profile around its periphery.

27. The shroud according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the shroud is adapted to be secured to the user.

28. The shroud according to claim 27 wherein the shroud is secured to the user using a clipping means, allowing the shroud to be clipped onto a belt.

29. The shroud according to claim 28 wherein the clipping means is secured to the rear wall of the receptacle, and co-operates with a rebate or opening in the receptacle which is positioned to receive an end of the clipping means so as to assist with securement of the shroud to the belt.
- 5 30. The shroud according to claim 27 wherein the shroud is secured to the user using a lanyard/strap having both ends connected to the shroud to form a loop.
31. The shroud according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the shroud is substantially made from plastic.
- 10 32. The shroud according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the shroud is substantially made from a shock absorbing polymer.
33. The shroud according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the shroud is substantially made from a chemical resistant material.
- 15 34. The shroud according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the shroud is substantially made from a blend of polymers such as a blend of polycarbonate and acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene.
35. The shroud according to any one of claims 2 to 34 wherein the first member is resiliently flexible.
- 20 36. The shroud according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the shroud allows communication when the shroud is in the closed condition.
37. The shroud according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the shroud is configured such that when in the closed condition, the sound emanating from the communication device is directed towards the operator.
- 25 38. A shroud for protecting a communication device, the shroud comprises a receptacle having an opening to receive the device, the shroud further comprises a first member which is movable with respect to the receptacle to

move the shroud between a closed condition and an open condition, wherein in the open condition the communication device is fully operable, while in the closed condition the communication device is substantially protected from damage, the receptacle incorporates a first retaining means in a rear wall thereof, the first retaining means comprising at least one resiliently flexible locking tab adapted to releasably engage a corresponding locking portion on the communication device to releasably retain the device within the receptacle.

39. A shroud for protecting a communication device, the shroud comprises a receptacle having an opening to receive the device, the receptacle being adapted to releasably retain the device therein, the shroud further comprises a first member which is movable with respect to the receptacle to move the shroud between a closed condition and an open condition, wherein in the open condition the communication device is fully operable, while in the closed condition the communication device is substantially protected from damage, the shroud also incorporates a retaining means comprising a locking projection extending from the first member, such that when in the closed condition the locking projection extends at least partially across the opening of the receptacle preventing the communication device from passing through the opening when the shroud is in the closed condition.

40. A shroud as substantially herein described with reference to the drawings.